

# **Francis M. Shearer collection**

## **L313**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 12, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Title</b>	Francis M. Shearer collection
<b>Date</b>	1829-1974, undated
<b>Extent</b>	2.0 Cubic feet 3 manuscript boxes, 2 small oversize boxes, 1 medium oversize
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Francis M. Shearer collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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Francis Mathews Shearer was a descendent of early 19th century settlers of Marion County, Indiana. His great-great-grandparents, Michael (1775-1854) and Elizabeth Knabb (1792-1882) Shearer settled in Marion County in 1827. The family farm was located at what is now 21st and Ritter in Indianapolis. Their son, John (1825-1903) married Mary Ann Johnson (1833-1920) in 1855 and they had a son named William Marion (1856-1939). He married Margaret Ellen English (1855-1910) in 1878 and they had 3 sons, Charles English (1881-1925 ), John Edwin (1883-1940), and William Albert (1890-1973). William Albert married Audrey Marshall (1891-1968) in 1913 and they were the parents of Francis M. Shearer (1915-2003).

Sources:

Information within collection.

"John E. Shearer Dies Unexpectedly." *Indianapolis Star* (IN), March 30, 1940.

"Ex-Exec at national, Shearer Dead at 83." *Lafayette Journal & Courier* (IN), July 21, 1973.

"William M. Shearer, 82, Lifelong Resident, Dies." *Indianapolis Star* (IN), May 27, 1939.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains legal documents, personal papers, receipts, genealogical information and photographs from the Shearer, Marshall, and English families, ranging from 1829-1974. The legal documents include warranty deeds, quitclaim deeds, and an abstract of title for property John and William Marion Shearer obtained in Indianapolis and Marion County. Other documents include Michael Shearer's tax receipts, a copy of his 1829 land grant, and copies of the wills of John Shearer and William A. Shearer. There is an extensive collection of cabinet card and carte-de-visite photographs of the Shearer, English, and Marshall families taken by a variety of photographers from Indianapolis other Indiana communities (circa 1870-1890s). The collection also contains a variety of publications and includes the medical book, *The Physical Life of Woman: Advise to the Maiden, Wife, and Mother* by Geo. H. Napheys, A.M. M.D.(1870); a 1909 Shortridge High School annual; artist Harrison Fisher's illustrated book, *A Garden of Girls* (1910); and a book about World War I, *The Battery Book: A History of Battery 'A' 306 F.A.* (1921). Other items of note are paper currency from the Bank of Indiana, Bank of Clifton, Northern Bank of Kentucky and the United States "fractional currency" circulated in the 1800s; the February 5, 1878 marriage certificate of William Marion Shearer and Maggie English; William Arthur Shearer's

World War I identification card and photographs of him from the war; and Audrey Marshall Shearer's poetry.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Family documents, 1829-1973, undated

Series 2: Publications, 1870-1974

Series 3: Family bibles, 1806-1877

Series 4: Family photographs, circa 1878-1940, undated

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Frank Shearer in 1976/03.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed 2016/07/29 by Laura Eliason. EAD finding aid created 2016/07/29 by Laura Eliason.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Material**

Materials relating to this collection may be found in the following collections in Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN:

OH247: Francis (Frank) M. Shearer oral history

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Shortridge High School (Indianapolis, Ind.).

### **Family Name(s)**

- Shearer family

### **Genre(s)**

- Carte de visit photographs
- Tintypes

## **Geographic Name(s)**

- Indianapolis (Ind.)
- Marion County (Ind.)

## **Subject(s)**

- Bibles
- Family history
- World War, 1914-1918--Military life

## Series 1: Family documents, 1829-1973, undated

## Collection Inventory

Series 1: Family documents, 1829-1973, undated		
	Box	Folder
Michael Shearer land grant, 1829/05/11	1	1
Michael Shearer receipts, 1838-1853, undated	1	2
Shearer family documents, 1852-1919, undated	1	3
John Shearer legal documents, 1855-1904	1	4
William Marion Shearer documents, 1884-1937	1	5
William Marion Shearer abstract of title, 1885-1917	1	6
William A. Shearer documents, 1900-1973, undated	1	7
Audrey Marshall Shearer poetry, 1923-1960, undated	1	8
Audrey M. Shearer pocket notebooks and hospital auxiliary card, 1954-1964	1	9
English and Shearer family memorials, sympathy cards and Crown Hill Cemetery proprietor's cards, 1892-1921, undated	1	10



**Series 3: Publications, 1870-1974**

English, Marshall, Mathews, Scott, and Shearer genealogy documents, 1888-1950, undated	1	11
English family documents, 1866-1874, undated	1	12
Edward O'Rorke memorial (Marshall, Scott Irish lineage), undated	1	13
Paper currency, circa 1833-1876	1	14
Clippings and advertisement cards, 1861-1965, undated	1	15
Sunday school lesson, Bible verse ribbon bookmarks and prayer card, 1902/06/22, undated	1	16
Miscellaneous notes, cards, and wallet, 1910-1952, undated	1	17

**Series 3: Publications, 1870-1974**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Charles Marshall's Shortridge High School annual, 1909	1	18
"Way Back When: Informal Essays from Rush County Oral History" booklet, 1974	1	19
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Geo. H. Napheys, A.M., M.D. "The Physical Life of Woman: Advice to the Maiden, Wife, and Mother", 1870	2	1

## Series 4: Family bibles, 1806-1883, undated

Charles Frederic Goss "The Redemption of David Corson", 1900	2	2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Harrison Fisher "A Garden of Girls", 1910	2	1
Edward Lear "The Nonsense ABC's", 1918	2	2
The De Vinne Press "The Battery Book: A History of Battery 'A' 306 F.A.", 1921	2	3
Caterpillar Tractor Company "Fifty Years of Tracks", 1954	2	4

## Series 4: Family bibles, 1806-1883, undated

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Marion Scott bible, 1806	4	1
Audrey Marshall bible, 1877	5	1
Francis Mia Marshall bible, undated	5	2
Mary English bible, 1883	5	3

## Series 5: Family photographs, ca.1878-1940, undated

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
William M. and Maggie Shearer photographs, circa 1880-1900	3	1

## Series 5: Family photographs, ca.1878-1940, undated

Charles E., John E., and William A. Shearer photographs, circa 1882-1940	3	2
Shearer and Marshall family photographs, 1886-1888, undated	3	3
English family (?) cabinet card photographs, 1881, undated	3	4
English family (?) cabinet card photographs, 1881-1886, undated	3	5
English family (?) cabinet card photographs, undated	3	6
English family (?) carte-de-visite photographs, 1878-1880, undated	3	7
English family (?) carte-de-visite and tintype photographs, 1885/11, undated	3	8
English family (?) carte-de-visite and tintype photographs, undated	3	9
English family (?) tintype photographs, undated	3	10
Joseph and Mary English photograph, undated	3	11
Archibald M. and Emmett Loren Kennedy cabinet card photographs, undated	3	12
Marshall family photographs, circa 1892-1898, undated	6	1
Shearer family photographs, circa 1892-1909, undated	6	2

**Series 5: Family photographs, ca.1878-1940, undated**

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William A. Shearer school photographs, 1898-1902	6	3
Charles E., John E., and William A. Shearer photographs, circa 1902-1910	6	4
Unidentified woman tintype, undated	6	5
Unidentified man tintype, undated	6	6